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## NOTES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

EDITED BY HORACE E. FLACK

**Cold Storage.** The last legislature of New Jersey enacted a law, approved by the governor in April, to take effect immediately, which makes it unlawful for cold storage warehouse owners or operators, or those engaged in the business of refrigerating to receive or place in cold storage warehouses any article of food or package containing food, unless such article or package is marked with the exact date of receipt for storage. Nor shall food which has been kept in cold storage without the state of New Jersey be received unless it is marked with the date of first receipt. The law further provides that no article shall be taken from cold storage unless it bears the date of receipt.

It is declared unlawful for any article to be kept in cold storage longer than ten calendar months without the consent of the state board of health or its properly authorized agent, except on condition that report is made of the fact to the board of health, on blanks provided by that body, and that the food so stored shall not be delivered to any person without a certificate from the board authorizing such delivery. Power is given to the board to extend, at discretion, the time for which any food may be stored.

It is made the duty of the board of health to inspect and supervise all places used for cold storage or refrigerating purposes; and the members of the board, or their duly authorized representative, must be given free access at any time to such warehouses or places for refrigeration, in order that they may satisfy themselves that they are kept in a sanitary and clean condition.

Every person or corporation engaged in the cold storage or refrigerating business is required to make to the state board of health a quarterly report stating in itemized particulars, the quantity of every article of food in the warehouse owned or operated by such person or corporation.

The transfer of food from one warehouse to another for the purpose of evading the provision of this law is prohibited, as is also the return to cold storage of any food which has been once withdrawn and placed on sale.

Any food left in cold storage longer than the specified ten months may be offered for sale by the person in charge of the warehouse, twenty days' notice having been given the owner of the food. This sale shall take place within thirty days after the expiration of the prescribed period of storage, and the proceeds of the sale shall be paid to the owner, after the cost of storage and other charges have been deducted therefrom. If such food has been condemned by the state board of health, it shall be destroyed or otherwise disposed of according to the directions of the board.

The penalty for violation of any part of this law is a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars for the first offense, but a second offense shall be counted as a misdemeanor.

LORIAN P. JEFFERSON.

**Commission Government, Progress of, in California.** Under the home rule provisions of the constitution of California (article 11, section 8), permitting cities of more than 3,500 inhabitants to frame their own charters (subject to the approval of the legislature), eight cities have adopted a commission form of government. The list, compiled by the Short Ballot Organization, and brought down to June 23, 1911, include Berkeley (40,000), Modesto (4,000), Monterey, San Diego (39,000), San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz (11,000), Vallejo, and Oakland (150,000).

In order to permit cities of 3,500 and less inhabitants to adopt the commission form if they desire, the last legislature passed an act (Chapter 418, Laws of 1911) granting such authority.

The law provides that the boards of trustees of cities of the fifth class (of from 3,000 to 10,000 inhabitants) and of the sixth class (of not exceeding 3,000), may at any time submit to the voters of their cities at any municipal or special election, the question of the division of the administration of the municipality into five departments, providing for the assignment of their several members as heads of such departments, and defining the duties, powers and responsibilities of each commissioner.

The law further provides that, subject to the provisions of the act, the board by a majority vote may appoint its several members as the respective commissioners of the departments; and may by like vote from time to time change such appointment. In case the ordinance requires commissioners to devote a specified number of hours each business day to the performance of their official duties, salaries may